

L96 Hardware Design

GNSS Module Series

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About the Document

History

Revision	Date	Author	Description		
1.0	2017-10-27	Brooke WANG/ Kane ZHU	Initial		
1.1	2017-12-22	Brooke WANG	 Enabled 3D_FIX, JAM_DET and GEO_FENCE interfaces for the module, and updated Figure 2 (Pin Assignment) for the three pins. Added the description of 3D_FIX, JAM_DET and GEO_FENCE interfaces in Table 4 (Pin Description) and Chapter 3.8~3.10. Updated the thickness of the module in Table 1 (Key Features) and Chapter 6 (Mechanical Dimensions). Updated the recommended footprint (Figure 22). 		
1.2	2018-02-13	Brooke WANG/ Gene LI	 Added a note about I2C interface in Chapter 2.2 and 3.7. Updated the block diagram in Chapter 2.3. 		



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1 Introduction

This document defines and specifies L96 GNSS module. It describes the hardware interfaces, external application reference circuits, mechanical size and air interface of L96 module.

This document can help customers quickly understand the interface specifications, as well as electrical and mechanical details of L96 module. Other documents such as L96 software application notes and user guides are also provided for them. These documents ensure customers can use L96 module to design and set up mobile applications quickly.



2 Product Concept

2.1. General Description

L96 is a single receiver module integrated with GPS, GLONASS, Galileo (RLM supported) and BeiDou systems. It is able to achieve the industry's highest level of sensitivity, accuracy and TTFF with the lowest power consumption in a small-footprint lead-free package. The embedded flash memory provides capacity for storing user-specific configurations and allows for future updates.

The L96 module supports multiple positioning and navigation systems including autonomous GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, BeiDou, SBAS (including WAAS, EGNOS, MSAS and GAGAN), QZSS, DGPS, and AGPS.

Designed with many advanced power saving modes including periodic, AlwaysLocate[™], standby and backup, L96 has excellent low-power consumption in different scenarios.

EASY technology as the key feature of L96 module is one kind of AGPS. Capable of collecting and processing all internal aiding information like GPS time, Ephemeris, Last Position, etc., the GNSS module delivers a very short TTFF in either Hot or Warm start.

L96 module is an SMD type module with the compact $14.0 \text{mm} \times 9.6 \text{mm} \times 2.0 \text{mm}$ form factor. It can be embedded in customers' applications through the 31-pin pads with 1.0 mm pitch. It provides necessary hardware interfaces for connection with the main PCB.

The module is fully compliant with EU RoHS directive.



2.2. Key Features

Table 1: Key Features

Features	Implementation
Receiver Type ¹⁾	 GPS L1 1575.42MHz C/A Code GLONASS L1 1598.0625MHz~1605.375MHz C/A Code Galileo L1 1575.42MHz C/A Code BeiDou B1 1561.098MHz C/A Code
Power Supply	Supply voltage: 2.8V~4.3VTypical: 3.3V
Power Consumption	Refer to <i>Table 13</i>
Sensitivity	 Acquisition: -148dBm Reacquisition: -160dBm Tracking: -165dBm
TTFF (EASY Enabled)	 Cold Start: <15s average @-130dBm Warm Start: <5s average @-130dBm Hot Start:1s @-130dBm
TTFF (EASY Disabled)	 Cold Start (Autonomous): <35s average @-130dBm Warm Start (Autonomous): <30s average @-130dBm Hot Start (Autonomous): 1s @-130dBm
Horizontal Position Accuracy (Autonomous)	• <2.5m CEP @-130dBm
Update Rate	 Up to 10Hz, 1Hz by default
Accuracy of 1PPS Signal	Typical accuracy: <10nsTime pulse width: 100ms
Velocity Accuracy	Without aid: 0.1m/s
Acceleration Accuracy	Without aid: 0.1m/s²
Dynamic Performance	 Maximum Altitude: 18000m Maximum Velocity: 515m/s Acceleration: 4G
UART Interface	 UART port: TXD1 and RXD1 Supports baud rate from 4800bps to 115200bps; 9600bps by default UART port is used for NMEA output, PMTK/PQ proprietary messages transmission and firmware upgrade
I2C Interface ²⁾	Supports fast mode, with bit rate up to 400KbpsSupports 7-bit address



	 Outputs NMEA data by default when reading; it can also receive
	PMTK/PQ commands via I2C bus
Tomporatura Danga	 Normal operation: -40°C ~ +85°C
Temperature Range	 Storage temperature: -40°C ~ +90°C
Dhysical Characteristics	● Size: (14.0±0.15)mm × (9.6±0.15)mm × (2.0±0.20)mm
Physical Characteristics	 Weight: Approx. 0.6g

NOTES

- 1. 1) The default GNSS configuration of L96 is GPS+GLONASS. For more details about the GNSS configuration, please refer to *document [2]*.
- 2. ²⁾ I2C interface is supported only on firmware versions ended with "SC". In other firmware versions, I2C_SDA and I2C_SCL pins are used for RTCM data output. When I2C interface is supported, NEMA data should be outputted via I2C interface rather than UART interface, otherwise there maybe NEMA data loss.

2.3. Block Diagram

The following figure shows the block diagram of L96 module. It consists of a single chip GNSS IC which includes RF/Baseband parts, a LNA, a SAW filter, a TCXO and a crystal oscillator.

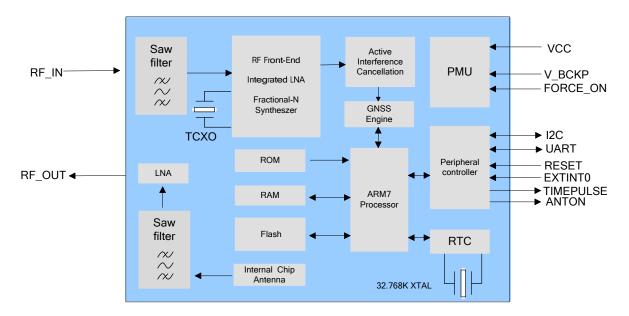


Figure 1: Block Diagram



2.4. Evaluation Board

In order to help customers to use L96 module on their applications, Quectel supplies the evaluation board (EVB), Micro-USB cable, active antenna and other peripherals to test the module. For more details, please refer to *document* [1].

2.5. Protocols Supported by the Module

Table 2: Supported Protocols

Protocol	Туре
NMEA	Output, ASCII, 0183, 4.10
PMTK	Input/Output, MTK proprietary protocol
PQ	Input/Output, Quectel proprietary protocol

NOTES

- 1. Please refer to *document [2]* for details of NMEA standard protocol and MTK proprietary protocol.
- 2. Please refer to *document [6]* for details of Quectel proprietary protocol.



3 Application Interfaces

The module is equipped with a 31-pin 1.0mm pitch SMT pad that connects to customers' application platforms. Sub-interfaces included in the pad are described in details in the following chapters.

3.1. Pin Assignment

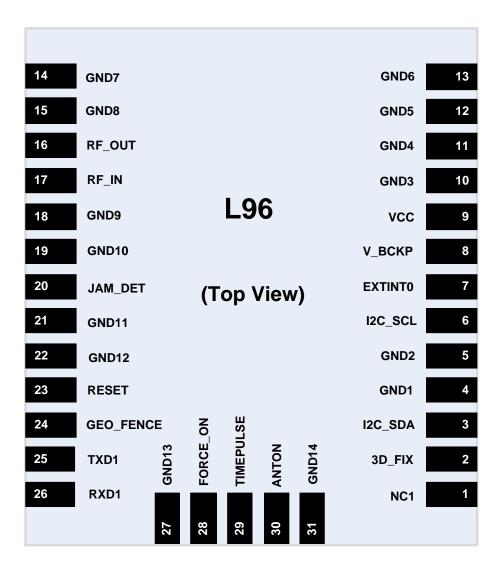


Figure 2: Pin Assignment



3.2. Pin Description

Table 3: I/O Parameters Definition

Туре	Description
Ю	Bidirectional
DI	Digital input
DO	Digital output
PI	Power input
Al	Analog input
AO	Analog output

Table 4: Pin Description

Power Supp	ly				
Pin Name	Pin No.	I/O	Description	DC Characteristics	Comment
V_BCKP	8	PI	Backup power supply	Vmax=4.5V Vmin=1.5V Vnom=3.3V I _{V_BCKP} =7uA @Backup mode	Supply power for RTC domain when VCC is powered off.
VCC	9	PI	Main power supply	Vmax=4.3V Vmin=2.8V Vnom=3.3V	Assure load current not less than 150mA.
Reset					
Pin Name	Pin No.	I/O	Description	DC Characteristics	Comment
RESET	23	DI	System reset	V _{IL} min=-0.3V V _{IL} max=0.7V V _{IH} min=2.1V V _{IH} max=3.1V	Active low. If unused, keep this pin open or connected to VCC.
UART Port					
Pin Name	Pin No.	I/O	Description	DC Characteristics	Comment
TXD1	25	DO	Transmit data	V _{OL} max=0.42V	UART port is used for



RXD1	26	DI	Receive data	V _{OH} min=2.4V V _{OH} nom=2.8V V _{IL} min=-0.3V V _{IL} max=0.7V V _{IH} min=2.1V V _{IH} max=3.1V	NMEA output, PMTK/PQ proprietary messages transmission and firmware upgrade.
RF Interface					
Pin Name	Pin No.	I/O	Description	DC Characteristics	Comment
RF_OUT	16	АО	RF signal output		50Ω characteristic impedance.
RF_IN	17	Al	RF signal input		Refer to <i>Chapter 4</i> for details.
Other Interfa	ces				
Pin Name	Pin No.	I/O	Description	DC Characteristics	Comment
ANTON	30	DO	External LNA control pin and active antenna power control pin in power saving mode	V _{OL} max=0.42V V _{OH} min=2.4V V _{OH} nom=2.8V	If unused, keep this pin open.
EXTINT0	7	DI	Used to enter into or exit from standby mode	V _{IL} min=-0.3V V _{IL} max=0.7V V _{IH} min=2.1V V _{IH} max=3.1V	It is pulled up internally. It is edge-triggered. If unused, keep this pin open.
TIMEPULSE	29	DO	One pulse per second	V _{OL} max=0.42V V _{OH} min=2.4V V _{OH} nom=2.8V	Synchronized at rising edge, the pulse width is 100ms. If unused, keep this pin open.
FORCE_ ON	28	DI	Logic high will force module to be woken up from backup mode	V _{IL} min=-0.3V V _{IL} max=0.7V V _{IH} min=2.1V V _{IH} max=3.1V	Keep this pin open or pulled low before entering into backup mode. It belongs to RTC domain. If unused, keep this pin open.
I2C_SDA	3	Ю	I2C serial data	V _{IL} min=-0.3V V _{IL} max=0.7V	I2C interface outputs NMEA
I2C_SCL	6	Ю	I2C serial clock	V _{IL} max=0.7V V _{IH} min=2.1V V _{IH} max= 3.1V V _{OL} max=0.42V V _{OH} min=2.4V	data. It can also receive PMTK/PQ commands by I2C bus.



				V _{OH} nom=2.8V	
3D_FIX	2	DO	3D fix indicator	V _{OL} max=0.42V V _{OH} min=2.4V V _{OH} nom=2.8V	Active high. If unused, keep this pin open.
JAM_DET	20	DO	Jamming detection indicator	V_{OL} max=0.42 V V_{OH} min=2.4 V V_{OH} nom=2.8 V	If unused, keep this pin open.
GEO_FENCE	24	DO	Geo-fence boundary indicator	V_{OL} max=0.42 V V_{OH} min=2.4 V V_{OH} nom=2.8 V	If unused, keep this pin open.

3.3. Power Supply

VCC pin supplies power for BB, RF, I/O and RTC domain. The load current of VCC pin varies according to the VCC level, processor load and satellite acquisition. Typical VCC peak current is 40mA during GNSS acquisition after power-up. So it is important to supply sufficient current and make the power clean and stable. Meanwhile, customers should choose the LDO without built-in output high-speed discharge function to keep long output voltage drop-down period. It is recommended to add the decoupling combination of a 10uF and a 100nF capacitor as well as a 5V/1W zener diode near VCC pin.

The V_BCKP pin supplies power for RTC domain. A cell battery with the combination of 4.7uF and 100nF capacitors is recommended nearby V_BCKP pin. The voltage of RTC domain ranges from 1.5V to 4.5V. In order to achieve better Time to First Fix (TTFF), RTC domain should be valid all the time. It can supply power for SRAM memory in RTC domain which contains all the necessary GNSS information for quick start-up and a small amount of user configuration variables.

The module's internal power construction is shown as below.

VCC pin supplies power for not only PMU but also RTC domain. V_BCKP supplies power for RTC domain only. The two diodes in the following figure construct an OR gate to supply power for RTC domain. FORCE_ON pin belongs to RTC domain. The signal which is marked in red in the following diagram can be used to control ON/OFF of the switch. The following actions will close or open the switch:

- The switch will be closed by default when VCC is supplying power (VCC off → on).
- Based on the above step, FORCE_ON open or low and sending PMTK command can open the switch (full on → backup).
- Based on the above step, FORCE_ON logic high can close the switch (backup → full on).



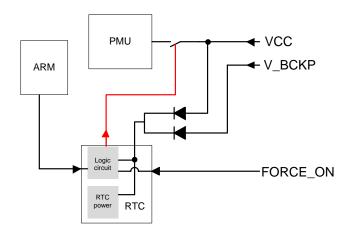


Figure 3: Internal Power Construction

3.4. Operation Modes

The table below briefly illustrates the relationship among different operation modes of L96 module.

Table 5: Module State Switch

	Next Mode					
Current Mode	Backup	Standby	Full on	Periodic	Always Locate [™]	GLP
Backup	N/A	N/A	Refer to Chapter 3.4.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Standby	N/A	N/A	Pull STANDBY high. Send any data via UART.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Full on	Refer to Chapter 3.4.3	Pull STANDBY low PMTK161	N/A	PMTK225	PMTK225	Refer to Chapter 3.4.6
GLP	N/A	N/A	Refer to Chapter 3.4.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Periodic	N/A	N/A	Refer to Chapter 3.4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
AlwaysLocate™	N/A	N/A	Refer to Chapter 3.4.5	N/A	N/A	N/A



NOTE

Please refer to document [2] for more details of MTK proprietary protocol (PMTK commands).

3.4.1. Full on Mode

Full on mode includes tracking mode and acquisition mode. Acquisition mode is defined as the module starts to search satellites, and to determine the visible satellites, coarse carrier frequency & code phase of satellite signals. When the acquisition is completed, it switches to tracking mode automatically. Tracking mode is defined as the module tracks satellites and demodulates the navigation data from specific satellites.

Whether both VCC and V_BCKP pins are valid or only VCC is valid, the module will enter into full on mode automatically and follow the default configuration as below. Please refer to *Chapter 3.3* about internal power construction to have a good comprehension. Customers also can use PMTK commands to change the configuration to satisfy requirements.

Table 6: Default Configuration

Item	Configuration	Comment
Baud Rate	9600bps	
Protocol	NMEA	RMC, VTG, GGA, GSA, GSV and GLL
Update Rate	1Hz	
SBAS	Enable	
AIC	Enable	
LOCUS	Disable	
EASY Technology	Enable	EASY will be disabled automatically when update rate exceeds 1Hz.
GNSS	GPS+GLONASS	

In full on mode, the consumption will comply with the following regulation:

When the module is powered on, the average current will rush to 40mA and last for a few seconds; then the consumption will be decreased to the acquisition current listed in *Table 13* and this state is defined as acquisition state. The state will last for several minutes until it switches to tracking state automatically. The consumption in tracking state is less than that in acquisition and the value is also listed in *Table 13*.



PMTK commands can be used to switch among multiple positioning systems:

- \$PMTK353,0,1,0,0,0*2A: Search GLONASS satellites only
- \$PMTK353,1,0,0,0,0*2A: Search GPS satellites only
- \$PMTK353,1,1,0,0,0*2B: Search GPS and GLONASS satellites
- \$PMTK353,1,1,1,0,0*2A: Search GPS, GLONASS, Galileo satellites

3.4.2. Standby Mode

Standby mode is a low-power consumption mode. In standby mode, the internal core and I/O power domain are still active, but RF and TCXO are powered off, and the module stops satellites search and navigation. UART is still accessible through PMTK commands or any other data, but there are no NMEA messages output.

There are two ways to enter into and exit from standby mode.

- Using EXTINTO pin: Pulling EXTINTO low will make the module enter into standby mode and
 releasing EXTINTO which has been pulled high internally will make the module back to full on mode.
 Please note that pulling EXTINTO pin down to ground will cause the extra current consumption which
 makes the typical standby mode current consumption reach up to about 600uA @VCC=3.3V.
- Using PMTK command: Sending PMTK command "\$PMTK161,0*28" will make the module enter into standby mode. Sending any data via UART will make the module exit from standby mode as UART is still accessible in standby mode. When the module exits from standby mode, it will use all internal aiding information like GPS time, Ephemeris, Last Position, etc. to get the fastest possible TTFF in either Hot or Warm start. The typical current consumption in standby mode is about 500uA @VCC=3.3V.

NOTE

Setting the customers' GPIO which controls EXTINT0 pin as input is recommended before turning on the module to avoid entering into standby mode unexpectedly during starting the module due to EXTINT0 pin's edge-triggered characteristic. After that, customers can reset the GPIO as output to control the EXTINT0 pin. If the pin is unused, keep it open.

3.4.3. Backup Mode

Backup mode requires lower power consumption than standby mode. In this mode, the module stops acquiring and tracking satellites. UART is not accessible. But the backed-up memory in RTC domain which contains all the necessary GNSS information for quick start-up and a small amount of user configuration variables is alive. Due to the backed-up memory, EASY technology is available. The current consumption in this mode is about 7uA.



There are two ways to enter into backup mode and back to full on mode.

- Send command "\$PMTK225,4*2F" (the signal marked red line opens the switch in *Figure 3*) to enter into backup mode forever. The only way to wake up the module is pulling the FORCE_ON pin high (the signal marked red line closes the switch in *Figure 3*).
- Cutting off VCC and keeping V_BCKP powered will make the module enter into backup mode from full on mode. As long as the VCC pin is powered, the module will enter into full on mode immediately.

NOTE

Keep FORCE_ON pin open or low before entering into backup mode. Or else, the backup mode will be unavailable.

For a better understanding, please refer to *Chapter 3.3* to see details about the internal power construction. The V_BCKP pin can be directly provided by an external capacitor or battery (rechargeable or non-chargeable). Please refer to the following figure for RTC backup reference design.

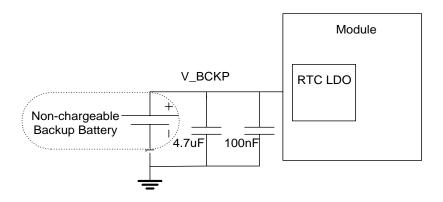


Figure 4: RTC Supply from Non-chargeable Battery

The V_BCKP pin does not support charging function for rechargeable battery. It is necessary to add a charging circuit for rechargeable batteries.

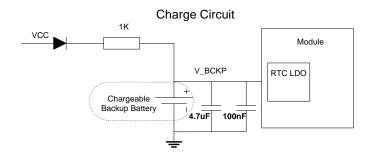


Figure 5: Reference Charging Circuit for Rechargeable Batteries



Coin-type rechargeable capacitor from Seiko (http://www.sii.co.jp/en) can be used and Schottky diode from ON Semiconductor (http://www.onsemi.com) is recommended to be used here for its low voltage drop.

3.4.4. Periodic Mode

Periodic mode can control the full on mode and standby/backup mode periodically to reduce power consumption. It contains periodic standby mode and periodic backup mode.

The format of the command, which enables the module to enter into periodic mode, is as following:

Table 7: Format of the PMTK Command Enabling Periodic Mode

Format: \$PMTK225, <type>,< <cr><lf></lf></cr></type>	Run_time>, <sleep< th=""><th>_time>,<2nd_run_time>,<2nd_sleep_time>*<checksum></checksum></th></sleep<>	_time>,<2nd_run_time>,<2nd_sleep_time>* <checksum></checksum>
Parameter	Format	Description
Туре	Decimal	Type=1: Periodic backup mode Type=2: Periodic standby mode
Run_time	Decimal	Run_time=Full on mode period (ms)
Sleep_time	Decimal	Sleep_time=Standby/Backup mode period (ms)
2nd_run_time	Decimal	<pre>2nd_run_time=Full on mode period (ms) for extended acquisition in case module's acquisition fails during the Run_time</pre>
2nd_sleep_time	Decimal	<pre>2nd_sleep_time=Standby/Backup mode period (ms) for extended sleep in case module's acquisition fails during the Run_time</pre>
Checksum	Hexadecimal	Hexadecimal checksum

Example

\$PMTK225,2,3000,12000,18000,72000*15<CR><LF>
\$PMTK225,1,3000,12000,18000,72000*16<CR><LF>

In periodic standby mode, sending "\$PMTK225,0*2B" in any time will make the module enter into full on mode.

In periodic backup mode, pulling the FORCE_ON high and sending "\$PMTK225,0*2B" immediately will make the module enter into full on mode.



While in periodic backup mode, sending "\$PMTK225,0*2B" during the **Run_time** or **2nd_run_time** will also make the module enter into full on mode. But this is hard to operate and thus is not recommended.

NOTES

- Setting the customer's GPIO which controls EXTINT0 as input is recommended before turning on the
 module to avoid entering into standby mode unexpectedly during starting the module due to
 EXTINT0 pin's edge-triggered characteristic. After that, customer can reset the GPIO as output to
 control the EXTINT0 pin. If the pin is unused, keep it open.
- 2. Keep FORCE_ON pin open or low before entering into periodic backup mode. Or else, the periodic backup mode will be unavailable.

The following figure has shown the operation mechanism of periodic mode. When customers send PMTK command, the module will be in the full on mode first. Several minutes later, the module will enter into periodic mode according to the parameters set. When the module fails to fix the position during **Run_time**, the module will switch to **2nd_run_time** and **2nd_sleep_time** automatically. As long as the module fixes the position again successfully, the module will return to **Run_time** and **Sleep_time**.

Before entering into periodic mode, please make sure the module is in tracking mode, otherwise the module may have a risk of failure in satellite tracking. If the module is located in weak signal areas, it is better to set a longer **2nd_run_time** to ensure the success of reacquisition.

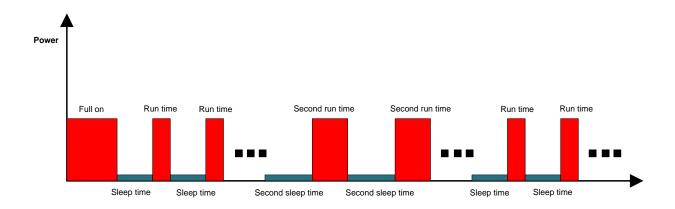


Figure 6: Operation Mechanism of Periodic Mode

The average current consumption in periodic mode can be calculated based on the following formula:

I periodic= (I tracking*T1+Istandby/backup*T2) / (T1+T2) T1: Run time, T2: Sleep time

Example

PMTK225,2,3000,12000,18000,72000*15 for periodic mode with 3s in tracking mode and 12s in standby mode based on GPS&GLONASS. The average current consumption is calculated below:



I periodic=(I tracking*T1+Istandby*T2)/(T1+T2)=(22mA*3s + 0.5mA*12s)/(3s+12s)≈4.8(mA)

PMTK225,1,3000,12000,18000,72000*16 for periodic mode with 3s in tracking mode and 12s in backup mode based on GPS&GLONASS. The average current consumption is calculated below:

I periodic=(I tracking*T1+lbackup*T2)/(T1+T2)=(22mA*3s + 0.007mA*12s)/(3s+12s)≈4.4(mA)

3.4.5. AlwaysLocate[™] Mode

AlwaysLocate[™] is an intelligent power saving mode. It contains AlwaysLocate[™] backup mode and AlwaysLocate[™] standby mode.

AlwaysLocateTM standby mode allows the module to switch automatically between full on mode and standby mode. According to the environmental and motion conditions, the module can adaptively adjust the full on time and standby time to achieve the balance between positioning accuracy and power consumption. Sending "\$PMTK225,8*23" and the module returning "\$PMTK001,225,3*35" means that the module has entered AlwaysLocateTM standby mode successfully, which greatly saves power consumption. Sending "\$PMTK225,0*2B" in any time will make the module back to full on mode.

AlwaysLocateTM backup mode is similar to AlwaysLocateTM standby mode. The difference is that the AlwaysLocateTM backup mode allows the module to switch automatically between full on mode and backup mode. Sending "\$PMTK225,9*22" command will make the module enter into AlwaysLocateTM backup mode. Pulling FORCE_ON high and sending "\$PMTK225,0*2B" immediately will make the module back to full on mode.

The position accuracy in AlwaysLocate[™] mode may be degraded, especially in high speed movement. The following figure illustrates the power consumption of module in different scenarios.

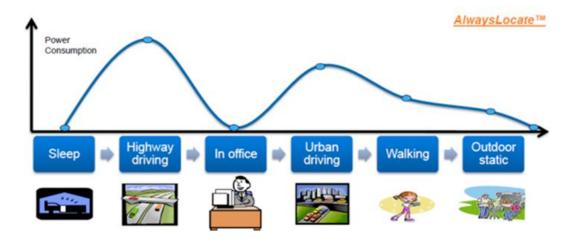


Figure 7: Power Consumption in Different Scenarios (AlwaysLocate™ Mode)

When located in outdoors in static and equipped with an active antenna, the module has an average current consumption of approx. 2.7mA after tracking satellites in AlwaysLocateTM standby mode and 2.6mA in AlwaysLocateTM backup mode based on GPS&GLONASS.



NOTES

- Setting the customers' GPIO which controls EXTINT0 as input is recommended before turning on the
 module to avoid entering into standby mode unexpectedly during starting the module due to
 EXTINT0 pin's edge-triggered characteristic. After that, customer can reset the GPIO as output to
 control the EXTINT0. If the pin is unused, keep it open.
- 2. Keep FORCE_ON pin open or low before entering into AlwaysLocate[™] backup mode. Or else, the AlwaysLocate[™] backup mode will be unavailable.

3.4.6. GLP Mode

GLP (GNSS low power) mode is an optimized solution for wearable fitness and tracking devices. It can reduce power consumption by closing high accuracy positioning.

In GLP mode, the module can also provide good positioning performance in walking and running scenarios, and supports automatic dynamic duty operation switch for balance on performance and power consumption. It will come back to normal mode in difficult environments to keep good accuracy, thus realizing maximum performance with the lowest power consumption.

The average current consumption in GLP mode is down to 8.1mA in static scenario, which is only 40% of that in normal mode. It may increase a little bit in dynamic scenario. The average current consumption in different outdoor scenarios in GLP mode and normal mode is shown in the table below.

Table 8: Average Current Consumption in GLP Mode and Normal Mode

Scenario	In GLP Mode (mA)	In Normal Mode (mA)
Static	8.1	20
Walking	10.2	20
Running	10.5	20
Driving	19.3	20

Customers can use the following commands to make the module enter into or exit from the GLP mode:

- \$PQGLP,W,1,1*21: The command is used to set the module into GLP mode. When "\$PQGLP,W,OK*09" is returned, it means the module has entered into GLP mode successfully.
- \$PQGLP,W,0,1*20: The command is used to make the module exit from GLP mode. When "\$PQGLP,W,OK*09" is returned, it means the module has exited from GLP mode successfully.



NOTES

- 1. It is recommended to set all the necessary commands before the module enters into GLP mode. If customers need to send commands, please exit from GLP mode first.
- 2. When the module enters into GLP mode, 1PPS function will be disabled.
- 3. When the GLP mode is enabled, the SBAS will be affected.
- 4. In high dynamic scenario, the module will have slightly decreased positioning accuracy in GLP mode.
- 5. The modules will automatically come back to the normal mode in complex environments to keep good positioning accuracy.

3.5. Reset

L96 module can be restarted by driving the RESET to a low level voltage for a certain time and then releasing it. This action will force volatile RAM data loss. Please note that Non-Volatile Backup RAM content is not cleared and thus fast TTFF is possible. An OC driver circuit shown as below is recommended to control the RESET.

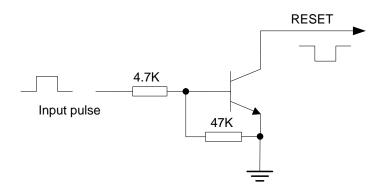


Figure 8: Reference Reset Circuit using OC Circuit



The following shows the timing of L96 module.

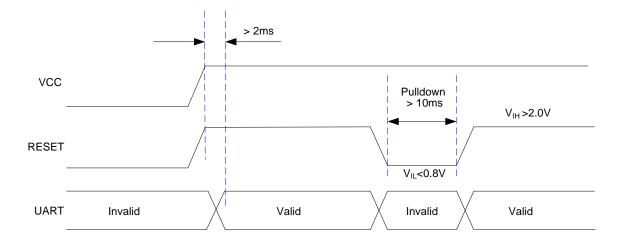


Figure 9: Module Timing

3.6. UART Interface

The module provides one universal asynchronous receiver & transmitter serial port. The module is designed as DCE (Data Communication Equipment), following the traditional DCE-DTE (Data Terminal Equipment) connection. The module and the client (DTE) are connected through the signal shown in the following figure. It supports data baud rate from 4800bps to 115200bps.

UART port:

- TXD1: Send data to the RXD signal line of DTE
- RXD1: Receive data from the TXD signal line of DTE

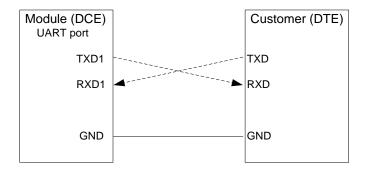


Figure 10: Connection of Serial Interfaces



This UART port has the following features:

- UART port can be used for NMEA output, PMTK/PQ proprietary messages transmission and firmware upgrade.
- The default output NMEA type setting is RMC, VTG, GGA, GSA, GSV and GLL.
- UART port supports the following data rates: 4800bps, 9600bps, 14400bps, 19200bps, 38400bps, 57600bps and 115200bps. The default setting is 9600bps, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit.
- Hardware flow control and synchronous operation are not supported.

The UART port does not support the RS-232 level but only CMOS level. If the module's UART port is connected to the UART port of a computer, it is necessary to add a level shift circuit between the module and the computer. Please refer to the following figure.

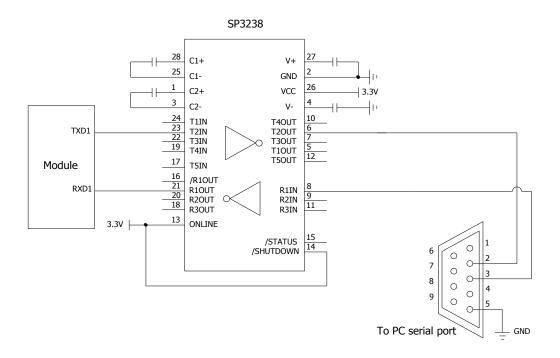


Figure 11: RS-232 Level Shift Circuit

NOTE

As GNSS module outputs more data than a single GPS system. The default output NMEA types running in 9600bps baud rate and 1Hz update rate will lose some data. The solution to avoid losing data in 9600bps baud rate and 1Hz update rate is to decrease the output NMEA types. 9600bps baud rate is enough to transmit GNSS NMEA in default settings and thus it is recommended.



3.7. I2C Interface

L96 module provides a set of I2C interface. The interface outputs NMEA data by default when reading. It can also receive PMTK/PQ commands by I2C bus.

The I2C interface has the following features:

- Support fast mode, with bit rate up to 400kbps.
- Support 7-bit address.
- Work on slave mode.
- Default I2C address values are Write: 0x20, Read: 0x21.

For more details, please refer to **document [5]**.

The following circuit is an example of connection.

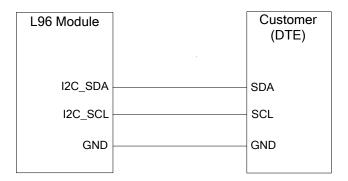


Figure 12: I2C Design for L96 Module

NOTES

- 1. I2C_SDA/I2C_SCL should be pulled up to 2.8V outside L96 module. There is need to add a pull-up resistor externally.
- 2. The voltage threshold of I2C is 2.8V. If the system voltage is not consistent with it, a level shifter circuit must be used.
- 3. I2C interface is supported only on firmware versions ended with "SC". In other firmware versions, I2C_SDA and I2C_SCL pins are used for RTCM data output. When I2C interface is supported, NEMA data should be outputted via I2C interface rather than UART interface, otherwise there maybe NEMA data loss.



3.8. 3D_FIX Interface

The 3D_FIX is assigned as a fix flag output. The pin will output a high voltage level to indicate successful positioning.

3.9. JAM_DET Interface

L96 module provides a jamming detection indicator to detect whether there are any jammers that may have impact on the device. If there is any jammer, the JAM_DET pin will output a low level; otherwise it outputs a high voltage level.

3.10. GEO_FENCE Interface

L96 module provides a GEO_FENCE interface to enable geo-fence boundary indication.

The module can be configured to report URCs to indicate entering or exiting the geo-fence. And the following four URC report modes are supported:

- 0: Do not report URC when entering or exiting the geo-fence (default setting)
- 1: Report URC when entering the geo-fence
- 2: Report URC when exiting the geo-fence
- 3: Report URC when entering or exiting the geo-fence

By default, the mode is 0, in which case the module will not report any URC to indicate entering or exiting the geo-fence, and GEO_FENCE interface always keeps high. In other modes, the voltage level status of GEO_FENCE is illustrated in the table below. For more details, please refer to **document [6]**.

Table 9: GEO_FENCE Voltage Level Status in Different URC Report Modes

URC Mode	Voltage Level Status
0	HIGH
1	HIGH to LOW when entering the geo-fence, and then from LOW to HIGH when the module exits the geo-fence again
2	HIGH to LOW when exiting the geo-fence, and then from LOW to HIGH when the module enters the geo-fence again
3	HIGH



3.11. EASY Autonomous AGPS Technology

Supplying aiding information like ephemeris, almanac, rough last position, time and satellite status, can help improve the acquisition sensitivity and the TTFF for a module. This is called as EASY technology and L96's GNSS part supports it.

EASY technology works as embedded software which can accelerate TTFF by predicting satellite navigation messages from received ephemeris. The GNSS part will calculate and predict orbit information automatically up to 3 days after first receiving the broadcast ephemeris, and save the predicted information into the internal memory. GNSS part of L96 will use the information for positioning if no enough information from satellites, so the function is helpful for positioning and TTFF improvement.

The EASY function can reduce TTFF to 5s in warm start. In this case, GNSS's backup domain should be valid. In order to gain enough broadcast ephemeris information from GNSS satellites; the GNSS part should receive the information for at least 5 minutes in good signal conditions after it fixes the position.

EASY function is enabled by default. Command "\$PMTK869,1,0*34" can be used to disable EASY function. For more details, please refer to **document [2]**.

3.12. EPO Offline AGPS Technology

L96 module features a function called EPO (Extended Prediction Orbit) which is a world leading technology that supports 30-day orbit predictions to customers. Occasional download from the EPO server is needed. For more details, please refer to **document [4]**.

3.13. Multi-tone AIC

L96 module has a function called multi-tone AIC (Active Interference Cancellation) to decease harmonic of RF noise from Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GSM and 3G.

Up to 12 multi-tone AIC embedded in the module can provide effective narrow-band interference and jamming elimination. The GNSS signal could be demodulated from the jammed signal, which can ensure better navigation quality. AIC function is enabled by default. Enabling AIC function will increase current consumption by about 1mA @VCC=3.3V. The following commands can be used to set AIC function.

Enable AIC function: "\$PMTK 286,1*23". Disable AIC function: "\$PMTK 286,0*22".



3.14. ANTON

L96 module provides a pin called ANTON which is related to module operation modes. Its voltage level will change in different module operation modes. When the module works in full on mode, this pin is in high level. While working in standby mode, backup mode, AlwaysLocateTM mode, or during sleep time in periodic mode, this pin is in low level. Based on this characteristic, the ANTON pin can be used to control the power supply of active antenna or the enable pin of the external LNA to reduce power consumption. Please refer to *Chapter 3.2* for more electrical characteristics about this pin. There is an example of this pin's application described in *Chapter 4.2*.

3.15. LOCUS

L96 module supports the embedded logger function called LOCUS. When enabled by PMTK command "\$PMTK185, 0*22", the function allows the module to log GNSS data to internal flash memory automatically without the need to wake up host, and thus, the module can enter into Sleep mode to save power consumption, and does not need to receive NMEA information all the time. L96 provides a log capacity of more than 16 hours.

The detail procedures of this function are illustrated below:

- The module has fixed the position (only effective in 3D_fixed scenario).
- Sending PMTK command "\$PMTK184,1*22" to erase internal flash.
- Sending PMTK command "\$PMTK185,0*22" to start logging.
- The module logs the basic information (UTC time, latitude, longitude and height) every 15 seconds to internal flash memory.
- Stop logging the information by sending PMTK command "\$PMTK185,1*23".
- MCU can get the data via UART by sending "\$PMTK622,1*29" to the module.

PMTK Command "\$PMTK183*38" can be used to query the state of LOCUS.

The raw data which MCU gets has to be parsed via LOCUS parser code provided by Quectel. For more details, please contact Quectel technical supports.

3.16. PPS VS. NMEA

Pulse per Second (PPS) VS. NMEA can be used for time service. The latency range of the beginning of UART Tx is between 465ms and 485ms, and after the rising edge of PPS.



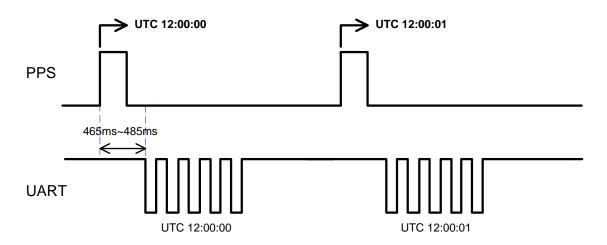


Figure 13: PPS VS. NMEA Timing

The feature only supports 1Hz NMEA output and baud rate at 14400bps~115200bps. When the baud rate is 9600bps, it only supports RMC NMEA sentence output. Because at low baud rates, per second transmission may exceed one second if there are many NMEA sentences output. Customers can enable this function by sending "\$PMTK255,1*2D", and disable the function by sending "\$PMTK255,0*2C".



4 Antenna Interfaces

L96 module supports GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/BeiDou systems. The RF signal is obtained from the RF_IN pin. The impedance of RF trace should be controlled as 50Ω , and the trace length should be kept as short as possible.

4.1. Antenna Specifications

The L96 module can be connected to a dedicated GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/BeiDou passive or active antenna to receive GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/BeiDou satellite signals. The recommended antenna specifications are given in the following table.

Table 10: Recommended Antenna Specifications

Antenna Type	Specification
	GPS frequency: 1575.42MHz±2MHz
	GLONASS frequency: 1602MHz±4MHz
	Galileo frequency: 1575.42MHz±1.023MHz
Passive Antenna	BeiDou frequency: 1561.098MHz±2MHz
	VSWR: <2 (Typ.)
	Polarization: RHCP or Linear
	Gain: >0dBi
	GPS frequency: 1575.42MHz±2MHz
	GLONASS frequency:1602MHz±4MHz
	Galileo frequency:1575.42MHz±1.023MHz
	BeiDou frequency: 1561.098MHz±2MHzVSWR: <2 (Typ.)
Active Antenna	Polarization: RHCP or Linear
	Noise figure: <1.5dB
	Gain (antenna): >-2dBi
	Gain (embedded LNA): 20dB (Typ.)
	Total gain: >18dBi (Typ.)



4.2. Recommended Circuit for Antenna

Both active and passive antennas can be used for L96 module.

4.2.1. Active Antenna

4.2.1.1. Active Antenna without ANTON

The following figure is a typical reference design for active antenna without ANTON. In this mode, the antenna's power is from the VCC_3V3.

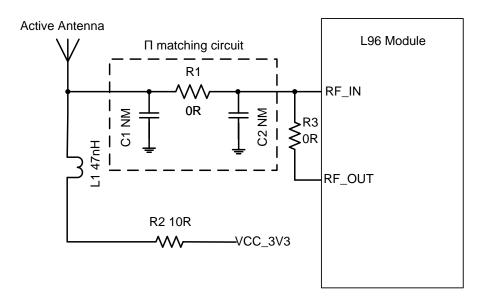


Figure 14: Reference Design for Active Antenna without ANTON

C1, C2 and R1 are reserved matching circuits for antenna impedance modification. By default, C1, C2 and R3 are not mounted, and R1 is 0Ω .

L96 module needs 3.3V voltage which can be provided by an external LDO.

The inductor L1 is used to prevent the RF signal from leaking into the VCC_3V3 and route the bias supply to the active antenna. The recommended value of L1 is no less than 47nH. R2 can protect the whole circuit in case the active antenna is short-circuited to ground.



4.2.1.2. Active Antenna with ANTON

L96 module can also reduce power consumption by controlling the power supply of active antenna through the pin ANTON.

A reference circuit for active antenna with ANTON function is given as below.

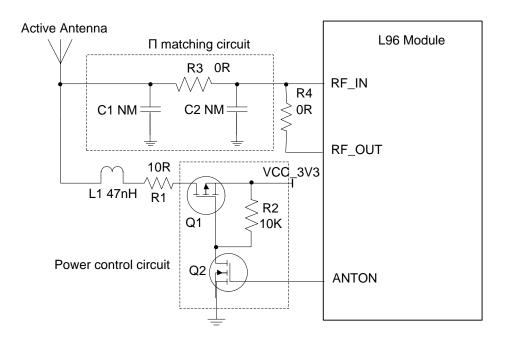


Figure 15: Reference Design for Active Antenna with ANTON

C1, C2 and R3 are reserved matching circuits for antenna impedance modification. By default, C1, C2 and R4 are not mounted, and R3 is 0Ω .

ANTON is an optional pin which can be used to control the power supply of the active antenna. When the ANTON pin is pulled down, MOSFET Q1 and Q2 are in high impedance state and the power supply for antenna is cut off. When ANTON is pulled high, it will make Q1 and Q2 in the on-state, and VCC_3V3 will provide power supply for the active antenna. The high and low level of ANTON pin is determined by the module's state. Please refer to *Chapter 3.14* for more details. If unused, please keep ANTON pin open.

For minimizing the current consumption, the value of resistor R2 should not be too small, and the recommended value is $10K\Omega$.



4.2.2. Passive Antenna

4.2.2.1. Passive Antenna without External LNA

The following figure is a typical reference design for passive antenna without LNA.

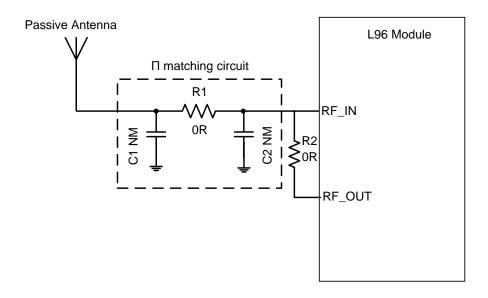


Figure 16: Reference Design for Passive Antenna without LNA

C1, C2 and R1 are reserved matching circuits for antenna impedance modification. C1, C2 and R2 are not mounted by default, and R1 is 0Ω . Impedance of RF trace should be controlled as 50Ω and the trace length should be kept as short as possible.

4.2.2.2. Passive Antenna with External LNA

In order to improve the receiver sensitivity and reduce the TTFF, an external LNA between the passive antenna and the L96 module is recommended. A reference design is shown as below.



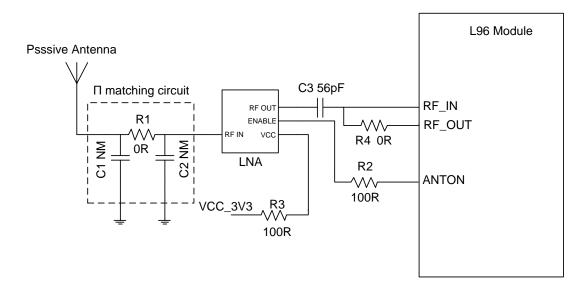


Figure 17: Reference Design for Passive Antenna with LNA

Here, C1, C2 and R1 form a reserved matching circuit for passive antenna and LNA. C1, C2 and R4 are not mounted by default, and R1 is 0Ω . C3 is reserved for impedance matching between LNA and L96 module and the default value of C3 capacitor is 56pF which can be further optimized according to the real conditions. ANTON is an optional pin which can be used to control the enable pin of an external LNA.

4.2.3. Internal Antenna

The following figure is a typical reference design for internal antenna.

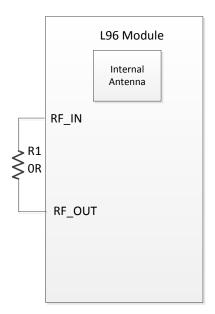


Figure 18: Reference Design for Internal Antenna



Matching circuits are not needed. Only R1 is needed and R1 is 0Ω . Also, the connection line between the two pins should be as short as possible.

NOTES

- 1. The selected LNA should support GPS/GLONASS/Galileo/BeiDou systems. LNA from Maxim (http://para.maximintegrated.com) or from Infineon (http://www.infineon.com) is recommended to be used here. For more details, please contact Quectel technical supports.
- 2. The power consumption of the device will be reduced by controlling LNA's ENABLE pin through the ANTON pin of L96 module. If ANTON function is not used, please connect the ENABLE pin of LNA to VCC and keep LNA always on.

4.3. PCB Layout Suggestion

L96 module is intended to be placed at the center of the top edge of the motherboard, and the distance between the edge of the module and the nearest ground plane edge should be kept for at least 10mm. The embedded antenna performance depends on the design of the ground plane on the motherboard. The optimum size of the ground plane is 80mm × 40mm, but a larger or smaller ground plane can also be used. The suggested minimum size of ground plane is 45mm × 20mm. Although the suggested minimum width of ground plane is 45mm, to maximize performance, it is recommended to extend the width as much as possible. Conversely, increasing the height of the ground plane to more than 20mm has no much effect on antenna performance.

A keepout area ($4.8 \text{mm} \times 7.3 \text{mm}$) should be designed for the patch antenna of L96. Placement of any component is not allowed under the keepout area.

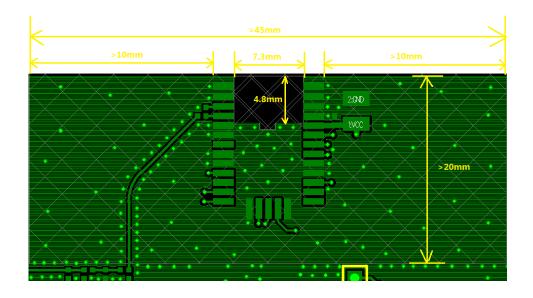


Figure 19: PCB Layout



5 Electrical, Reliability and Radio Characteristics

5.1. Absolute Maximum Ratings

Absolute maximum rating for power supply and voltage on digital pins of the module are listed in following table.

Table 11: Absolute Maximum Ratings

Parameter	Min.	Max.	Unit
Power Supply Voltage (VCC)	-0.3	4.5	V
Backup Battery Voltage (V_BCKP)	-0.3	4.5	V
Input Voltage at Digital Pins	-0.3	3.6	V
Input Power at RF_IN (PRF_IN)	-154	15	dBm

NOTE

Stressing the device beyond the "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage. These are stress ratings only. The product is not protected against over-voltage or reversed voltage. If necessary, voltage spikes exceeding the power supply voltage specification, given in table above, must be limited to values within the specified boundaries by using appropriate protection diodes.



5.2. Operating Conditions

Table 12: Power Supply Ratings

Parameter	Description	Conditions	Min.	Type.	Max.	Unit
VCC	Supply voltage	The actual input voltages must stay between the minimum and maximum values.	2.8	3.3	4.3	V
I _{VCCP}	Peak supply current	VCC=3.3V			150	mA
V_BCKP	Backup voltage supply		1.5	3.3	4.5	V
TOPR	Full on mode operating temperature		-40	25	85	°C

NOTES

- 1. The figures in the table above can be used to determine the maximum current capability of power supply.
- 2. Operation beyond the "Operating Conditions" is not recommended and extended exposure beyond the "Operating Conditions" may affect device reliability.

5.3. Current Consumption

The values for current consumption are shown in the following table.

Table 13: Current Consumption

Module	Conditions	Acquisition @3.3V	Tracking @3.3V	Standby @3.3V	Backup @V_BCKP=3.3V
L96	@-130dBm GPS	22mA	20mA	- 0.45mA	7uA
	@-130dBm GPS+GLONASS	25mA	20mA	0.45IIIA	



NOTE

The tracking current is tested in the following conditions:

- In Cold Start, 10 minutes after First Fix.
- In Hot Start, 15 seconds after First Fix.

5.4. Reliability Test

Table 14: Reliability Test

Test Item	Conditions	Standard
Thermal Shock	-30°C+80°C, 144 cycles	GB/T 2423.22-2002 Test Na IEC 68-2-14 Na
Damp Heat, Cyclic	+55°C; >90% Rh 6 cycles for 144 hours	IEC 68-2-30 Db Test
Vibration Shock	5Hz~20Hz, 0.96m2/s3; 20Hz~500Hz, 0.96m2/s3-3dB/oct, 1 hour/axis; no function	2423.13-1997 Test Fdb IEC 68-2-36 Fdb Test
Heat Test	+85°C, 2 hours, operational	GB/T 2423.1-2001 Ab IEC 68-2-1 Test
Cold Test	-40°C, 2 hours, operational	GB/T 2423.1-2001 Ab IEC 68-2-1 Test
Heat Soak	+90°C, 72 hours, non-operational	GB/T 2423.2-2001 Bb IEC 68-2-2 Test B
Cold Soak	-45°C, 72 hours, non-operational	GB/T 2423.1-2001 A IEC 68-2-1 Test

5.5. ESD Protection

L96 GNSS module is an ESD sensitive device. ESD protection precautions should be emphasized. Proper ESD handling and packaging procedures must be applied throughout the processing, handling and operation of any application that incorporates the module.

Please note the following measures are good for ESD protection when L96 module is handled.

- The first contact point shall always be between the local GND and PCB GND when handling the PCB, unless there is a galvanic coupling between the local GND and the PCB GND.
- While mounting the module onto a motherboard, please make sure the GND is connected first, and



then the RF_IN pad.

- Do not contact any charged capacitors or materials which may easily generate or store charges (such as patch antenna, coax cable, soldering iron, etc.) when handling the RF_IN pad.
- To prevent electrostatic discharge from the RF input, please do not touch any exposed area of the mounted patch antenna.
- Make sure to use an ESD safe soldering iron (tip) when soldering the RF_IN pin.



6 Mechanical Dimensions

This chapter describes the mechanical dimensions of the module. All dimensions are measured in millimeter (mm). The tolerances for dimensions without tolerance values are ±0.05mm.

6.1. Top and Side Dimensions of the Module

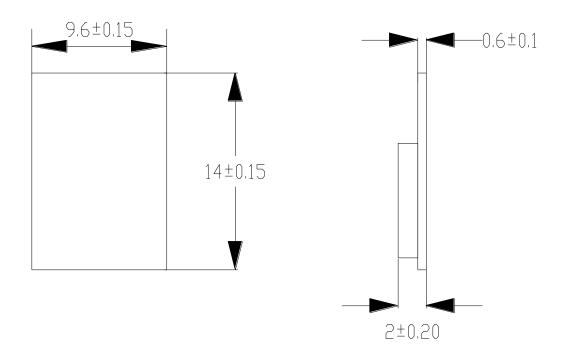


Figure 20: Top and Side Dimensions



6.2. Bottom Dimensions and Recommended Footprint

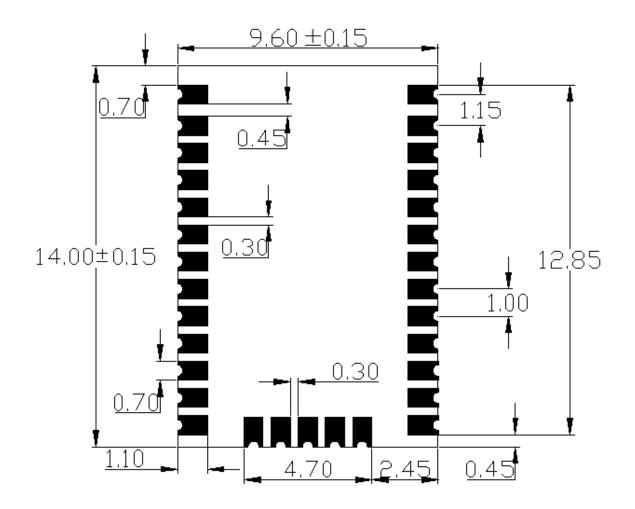


Figure 21: Bottom Dimensions



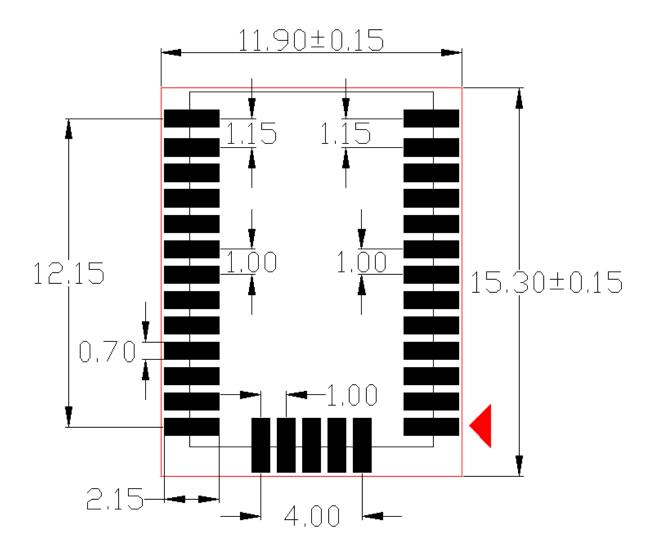


Figure 22: Recommended Footprint

NOTE

For easy maintenance of the module, keep about 3mm between the module and other components on host PCB.



6.3. Top and Bottom Views of the Module

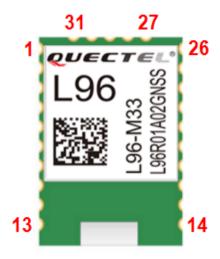


Figure 23: Top View of the Module

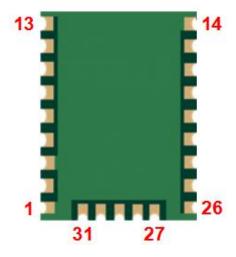


Figure 24: Bottom View of the Module

NOTE

These are design effect drawings of L96 module. For more accurate pictures, please refer to the module that you get from Quectel.



7 Manufacturing, Packaging and Ordering Information

7.1. Assembly and Soldering

L96 GNSS module is intended for SMT assembly and soldering in a Pb-free reflow process on the top side of the PCB. It is suggested that the minimum height of solder paste stencil is 130um to ensure sufficient solder volume. If required, stencil openings for each pad can be increased to ensure proper soldering and solder wetting over corresponding pads. It is suggested that the peak reflow temperature is from 235°C to 245°C (for SnAg3.0Cu0.5 alloy). The absolute maximum reflow temperature is 260°C. To avoid damage caused by repeated heating, it is recommended that the module should be mounted after reflow soldering for the other side of PCB has been completed. The recommended reflow soldering thermal profile is shown below:

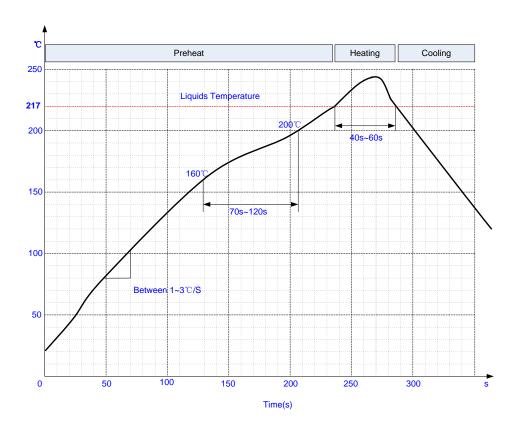


Figure 25: Recommended Reflow Soldering Thermal Profile



7.2. Moisture Sensitivity

L96 GNSS module is sensitive to moisture. To prevent L96 GNSS module from permanent damage during reflow soldering, baking before reflow soldering is required in the following cases:

- Humidity indicator card: One or more indicating spots are no longer blue.
- The seal is opened and the module is exposed to excessive humidity.

L96 GNSS module should be baked for 192 hours at temperature 40°C+5°C/-0°C and <5% RH in low-temperature containers, or 24 hours at temperature 125°C±5°C in high-temperature containers. Care should be taken that the plastic tape is not heat resistant. L96 GNSS module should be taken out from the tape before preheating, otherwise the tape maybe damaged by high-temperature heating.

7.3. Tape and Reel Packaging

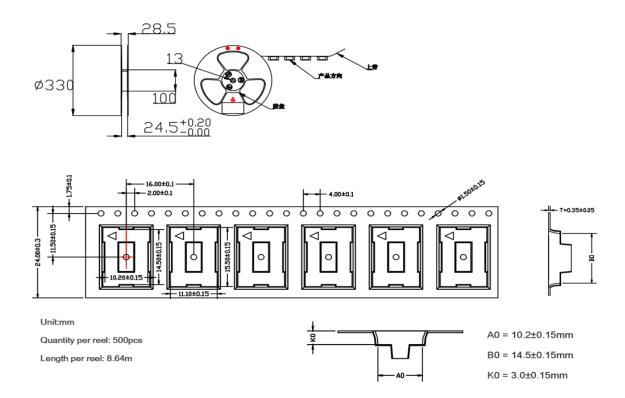


Figure 26: Tape and Reel Specifications



Table 15: Reel Packaging

Model Name	MOQ for MP	Minimum Package: 500pcs	Minimum Package x 4 = 2000pcs
		Size: 370mm × 350mm × 56mm	Size: 380mm × 250mm × 365mm
L96	500pcs	N.W: 0.3kg	N.W: 1.2kg
		G.W: 1.0kg	G.W: 4.5kg

7.4. Ordering Information

Table 16: Ordering Information

Model Name	Ordering Code
L96	L96-M33



8 Appendix A References

Table 17: Related Documents

SN	Document Name	Remark
[1]	Quectel_L96_EVB_User_Guide	L96 EVB User Guide
[2]	Quectel_L96_GNSS_Protocol_Specification	L96 GNSS Protocol Specification
[3]	Quectel_L96_Reference_Design	L96 Reference Design
[4]	Quectel_GNSS_EPO_Application_Note	GNSS EPO Application Note
[5]	Quectel_GNSS_I2C_Application_Note	I2C Application Note
[6]	Quectel_GNSS_SDK_Commands_Manual	GNSS SDK Commands Manual

Table 18: Terms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AGPS	Assisted GPS
AIC	Active Interference Cancellation
CEP	Circular Error Probable
DGPS	Differential GPS
EASY	Embedded Assist System
EGNOS	European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service
EMC	Electromagnetic Compatibility
EPO	Extended Prediction Orbit
ESD	Electrostatic Discharge
GPS	Global Positioning System



GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite System
GGA	GPS Fix Data
GLL	Geographic Position – Latitude/Longitude
GLONASS	GLOBAL NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTE
GSA	GNSS DOP and Active Satellites
GSV	GNSS Satellites in View
HDOP	Horizontal Dilution of Precision
IC	Integrated Circuit
I/O	Input /Output
Kbps	Kilo Bits Per Second
LNA	Low Noise Amplifier
MSAS	Multi-Functional Satellite Augmentation System
MOQ	Minimum Order Quantity
NMEA	National Marine Electronics Association
PDOP	Position Dilution of Precision
PMTK	MTK Proprietary Protocol
PPS	Pulse Per Second
PQ	Quectel Proprietary Protocol
PRN	Pseudo Random Noise Code
QZSS	Quasi-Zenith Satellite System
RHCP	Right Hand Circular Polarization
RMC	Recommended Minimum Specific GNSS Data
RTCM	Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services
SBAS	Satellite-based Augmentation System
SAW	Surface Acoustic Wave
TTFF	Time To First Fix



UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver & Transmitter
VDOP	Vertical Dilution of Precision
VTG	Course over Ground and Ground Speed, Horizontal Course and Horizontal Velocity
WAAS	Wide Area Augmentation System
Inom	Nominal Current
lmax	Maximum Load Current
Vmax	Maximum Voltage Value
Vnom	Nominal Voltage Value
Vmin	Minimum Voltage Value
V _{IH} max	Maximum Input High Level Voltage Value
V _{IH} min	Minimum Input High Level Voltage Value
V _{IL} max	Maximum Input Low Level Voltage Value
V _{IL} min	Minimum Input Low Level Voltage Value
V _I max	Absolute Maximum Input Voltage Value
V _I min	Absolute Minimum Input Voltage Value
V _{OH} max	Maximum Output High Level Voltage Value
V _{OH} min	Minimum Output High Level Voltage Value
V _{OL} max	Maximum Output Low Level Voltage Value
V _{OL} min	Minimum Output Low Level Voltage Value